

道教的发展史

天公诞

农历正月初九是玉皇上帝万寿日，称为“玉皇诞”或“天公诞”，是福建人“过年”的重大节庆，素有“天公大过年”的说法。

Knowledge on Taoism

The Birthday of Jade Emperor

The 9th Day of the 1st Lunar Month is the birthday of Jade Emperor, and is considered by many Hokkiens to be the most important day.

THIAN
HOCK
KENG

Since 1840



天福宮





天福宫简介

座落于直落亚逸街的天福宫建于1840年，是当时闽帮华商汇集的场所，也是福建帮总机构所在处。临海的天福宫落成后，凡南来或北归的华人，都把船舶碇在宫前，然后向妈祖娘娘祈求“海不扬波，平安返国”。

天福宫的兴建，象征新加坡由流动人口过度至定居社会。这座当年全岛最大规模的建筑物，耗资大量的金钱和多年的努力完成，是华社的宗教中心。天福宫虽是闽

帮庙宇，但以它规模的宏大，香火的兴旺，络绎不绝的香客，已进而超越帮派的藩篱。

天福宫是少数结合道、佛、儒三教合一的华人庙宇。除了供奉的主神妈祖之外，其他供奉的神明就有观世音菩萨、孔子等。有鉴于此，天福宫迄今吸引着众多不同籍贯的善信前来参拜，适逢神佛诞辰，更是热闹非常！

About Tian Hock Keng

Thian Hock Keng was built in 1840 along Telok Ayer Street, a bustling meeting point among *min* (闽) businessmen and an important congregation point for Hokkiens. Upon the completion of Thian Hock Keng, southbound immigrants who had just landed or northbound immigrants heading back to China would always stop by the temple facing the waterfront to pray for calm waves and a safe journey.

The construction of Thian Hock Keng signified the transformation of an immigrant society to one that planted its roots. The temple, hailed to be the biggest building island-wide then, took many years of sweat and toil and heavy financial commitments to complete. It was

also deemed to be the religious centre for the Chinese community at that time. Today, although Thian Hock Keng is primarily a min temple, its worshippers are not limited to min descendants. It has transcended dialect boundaries and worshippers are from all walks of life.

Thian Hock Keng is a rare temple that encompasses Taoism, Buddhism and Confucianism. In addition to its main deity, Goddess of the Seas, other deities include Goddess of Mercy and Confucius. Over the years, it has continued to attract devotees of different dialect groups and is especially crowded during birthday celebrations of deities.

为何天公诞在正月初九

在华人的信仰中，天公是至高无上、最具权威的神，掌管天上诸神众，以及人间亿万生灵。由于正月为一年之始，四季之首，而“九”在华人的习俗中有极大、极高之意，因此人们就订一年中的第一个初九为天公诞。

福建人拜天公少不了甘蔗

传说明朝（1368–1644年）时的农历新年，倭寇（wō kòu）在福建沿海一带抢劫杀人。在村民急忙逃生却无处可躲时，前方突然出现一片甘蔗林。村民躲进了甘蔗林，躲过了倭寇的屠杀。那天正是正月初九。劫后余生的村民认为是天公显灵，于是在正月初九凌晨拜天公，以甘蔗为供品是具有不忘甘蔗林藏身救命之恩。此外，甘蔗也谐音类似“感谢”。这风俗由先辈带到东南亚地区，形成了东南亚地区福建人宗教文化的特色之一。

福建人拜天公少不了甘蔗的传说不仅一个，还包括唐朝（618–907年）末年时的“是人不是狼”和明末清初时期（约1640年）“清廷下令占领福建”的传说。两则传说都与福建人于正月初九躲入甘蔗林逃生有关。

Why is the birthday of Jade Emperor on the 9th Day of the 1st Lunar Month?

Chinese holds the Jade Emperor, who commands all Heavenly deities and Earthly beings, in great respect. The 1st month signifies a new beginning for the seasons and the digit “9” is interpreted as an auspicious and noble number. Thus they mark the birthday of Jade Emperor on the 9th Day of the 1st Lunar Month.

Significance of Sugarcane

According to folklore, during a Chinese New Year in the *Ming* Dynasty (1368 to 1644), pirates attacked natives living along the Fujian coastline. Just as the natives were fleeing for their lives and had nowhere to hide, a sugarcane plantation appeared in front of them. They hid in the plantation and escaped from the pirates. That day was the 9th Day of the Chinese New Year. The natives believed that it was the Jade Emperor who saved their lives. From then, the natives would pray to Jade Emperor at midnight of the 9th Day of Chinese New Year, and sugarcane is a ‘must’ to remember that fateful night. In addition, sugarcane when pronounced in Hokkien rhymes with “thank you”. This custom was brought to Southeast Asia by our forefathers, and it became a unique heritage in the region.

There are other folklores about the offering of sugarcane. One relates to the mispronunciation of the word “man” with “wolf” which resulted in a massacre of Fujian natives during the *Tang* Dynasty (618-907), and another relates to the occupation of Fujian province by *Qing* soldiers around 1640. Both folklores cited the natives being saved by seeking refuge in sugarcane plantations.

拜天公一天公座和必备庙宇供品

天公座是天公诞最重要的传统祭品，因为天公座表示玉皇大帝降驾之位。天公座通常是用竹条红纸为框架，再贴上龙、凤、神等的剪纸图案。天公座一般有三座：中间为玉皇上帝，左边为三界高真，右边为天地神祇。



Praying to Jade Emperor – The Jade Emperor Altar & Essential Offerings

The ‘Joss Paper Jade Emperor Palace’ is the most important offering on the altar of the Jade Emperor as it signifies the position where the Jade Emperor will arrive. The ‘Joss Paper Palace’ is constructed using bamboo sticks, complete with motifs of deities, dragons and phoenixes on the facade. It comes in a set of three. The ‘Palace’ in the centre is for the Jade Emperor and the ‘palaces’ on the left and right are for the Three Divine Powers; and Heavenly and Earthly Deities respectively.

道教“五供”及“十供”

道教里常设的敬神供品称为“五供”：
香、花、灯、水和果。

香：通过焚香向神明传达自己的虔诚之心，
俗称“以香达信”

花：花能舞动阳气，熏沐金容，花光灿烂，
照映十方

灯：点燃烛或高挂灯笼代表祈求神明的庇
佑，前途一片光明

水：是宇宙之间一切生命的源泉，没有水就
没有生命，也就没有世界

果：通以五种（单数）水果为供物。不同
的水果带有不同的寓意。例：凤梨
（旺来）橘子（大吉大利）苹果（平平安安）
柚子（有）香蕉（招财）

在做道场时，需在“五供”的基础上增设
茶、食、宝、珠和衣，合称为“十供”。

The Five Offerings and Ten Offerings in Taoism

The Five Offerings in Taoism are:

Joss sticks: A mark of respect and is believed
to communicate devotees' offerings and wishes
to the Deities.

Fresh Flowers: A symbol of life and vivacity.
Devotees may bring the flowers home to wash
away bad luck.

Light: Illuminate the way to seek protection and
signifies a bright future.

Water: Source of life. Without water, the world
will not exist.

Fruits: Usually 5 (odd number) types of fruits
are offered including pineapples (prosperity),
oranges (auspicious), apples (peace), pomelos
(abundance) and bananas (fortune). Different fruits
symbolize different meanings.

At Taoist rituals, Ten Offerings will be offered. The
additional 5 offerings include tea, food, treasure,
jewels and clothing.



Joss sticks 香



Fresh Flowers 花



Water 水



Light 灯



Fruits 果

菜碗(福建音: cai⁵ uã³)

祭天公所用六淡和六甜的素斋，组成十二
碗的“菜碗”。

六淡：
金针、木耳、香菇、冬粉、豆皮、发菜



六甜：
花生糖、芝麻糖、贡豆、红枣、龙眼、
寸枣

Six Sweets:
Peanut Candy, Sesame Candy, Peanut Cake,
Red Dates, Longans, Flour Candy



其他供品

糖塔:

拜天公所用的粉红色塔型糖制艺术品，多以“九层塔”造型，含有“登高上天”、虔敬之意，而“糖”表示甘甜，代表祝福之意。供奉数量为单数，以三或五座为多。

蜜饯:

是一种甜的零食，代表“甜甜蜜蜜”。

红龟果:

传统糯米食品，造型像“龟”，含有寿比南山之意

六色糕饼:

切条、贡糖、金桃酥、黑芝麻酥、辫子酥、麻佬

面线塔:

又称寿面，是为祝寿用，象征长寿

寿桃:

依华人传统习俗，每逢过生日，桌上都会摆上寿桃，象征长寿

枕头包:

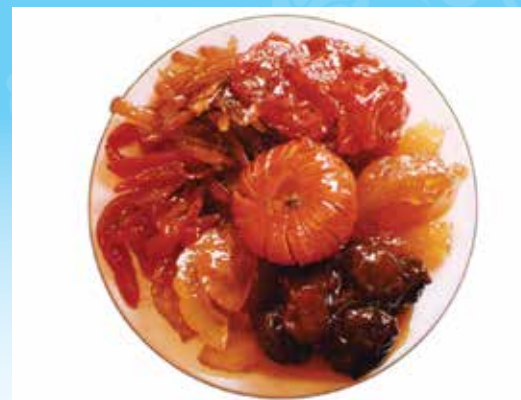
形状类似古代枕头，又像“8”（发），通常用于大礼

红圆:

圆形供品，象征圆圆满满



Sugar Towers 糖塔



Preserved Sweet Fruits 蜜饯



Ang Gu Kueh 红龟果



Six Confectionaries 六色糕饼



Noodle 面线塔



Longevity Buns 寿桃



Pillow Buns 枕头包



Hong Yuan 红圆

Other Offerings

Sugar Towers:

Pink in colour, it is made of sugar and usually is a 9-level tower said to 'reach the heavens'. The 'sweetness' is a blessing. It also comes in other shapes and are usually offered in 'odd' numbers.

Preserved Sweet Fruits:

A sweet titbit symbolizing happiness.

Ang Gu Kueh:

A glutinous sweet snack shaped like a 'tortoise'. It also marks longevity.

Other Confectionaries:

The last **six** other confectionaries have fillings made from red bean, green bean, rice and others.

Noodle:

Also known as Longevity Noodles and signifies longevity.

Longevity Buns:

Chinese believe one should celebrate one's birthday with longevity buns for a long blessed life.

Pillow Buns:

These are shaped like 'pillows' and also look like the digit '8'. These are offered only at major ceremonies.

Hong Yuan:

A round shaped glutinous sweet snack which symbolizes completeness.

善信祭拜天公的供品

除了敬奉神灵的五种基本供品外，善信用于天公诞的供品也包括：

- 饽盒：** 象征甜蜜、祥和
- 茶：** 显示对神明的敬意
- 橘：** 象征大吉大利
- 小发糕：** 象征发财好运、步步高升

金纸类

- 天公金：** 又称“大百寿金”，代表信徒对天公崇高的敬意
- 贵人纸：** 又称“贵人指引”，无论在工作、出外求事或所遇种种问题，可获得贵人的帮助
- 四方贵人：** 指招四方贵人相助、招财进宝、事事顺利
- 寿金：** 以表达心中对幸福、财富和健康长寿的祈求

“发财米桶” 祈求丰衣足食、旺气常来

在新的一年里，以米桶敬奉神明，并将米桶“请”回家有着“福满”的意义。天福宫“发财米桶”备有以下供品：

- 米：** 象征丰衣足食
- 白萝卜：** 福建话“菜头” (cai⁵ tao²)，象征好彩头
- 黄梨：** 象征旺气常来
- 橘：** 象征大吉大利
- 发糕：** 象征发财好运与步步高升
- 新年吉祥物：** 象征新的一年吉祥如意



Candy 饽盒



Tea 茶



Oranges 橘



Fa Gao 小发糕



Goodwill Joss Paper 贵人纸



Si Fang Goodwill Joss Paper 四方贵人



Tian Gong Joss Paper 天公金



Longevity Joss Paper 寿金

Offerings by Devotees

In addition to the Five Offerings, devotees offer the following when praying to the Jade Emperor during His Birthday:

- Candy:** For peace and harmony
- Tea:** A mark of respect to the Deities
- Oranges:** For good luck and fortune
- Fa Gao** (prosperity cake): Signifies prosperity and promotions

Joss Paper

Tian Gong Joss Paper and **Longevity Joss Paper:** A mark of respect to the Jade Emperor and one seeks longevity, blessings, prosperity and good health.

Goodwill Joss Paper and **Si Fang Goodwill Joss Paper:** For many helping hands from all directions to enhance fortune, further career and overcome obstacles.

Fortune Rice Bucket

In the new year, the fortune rice bucket, which symbolizes “Blessings in Abundance”, can be offered to Deities. Thereafter, devotees can bring the rice bucket home. Thian Hock Keng Fortune Rice Bucket consists of the following items:

- Rice:** Signifies that one shall always have food and be clothed
- Radish:** Represents good tidings
- Pineapple:** Signifies long lasting prosperity
- Oranges:** For good luck and fortune
- Prosperity Cake:** Signifies prosperity and promotions
- New Year Auspicious Ornament:** Auspicious and luck



Awards



▲ Top (left to right):

- 2001 Architectural Heritage Awards
- 6th SIA Architectural Design Awards 2001
- SIA-ICI Dulux Colour Awards 2001 (Silver)

▼ Bottom Left:

- UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation 2001 (Honourable Mention)



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